

# SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT WE, JUNICHI HARA, a citizen of Japan residing at Kanagawa, Japan and TAKU KODAMA, a citizen of Japan residing at Kanagawa, Japan have invented certain new and useful improvements in

IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS,  
PROGRAM, AND STORING MEDIUM

of which the following is a specification:-

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an image processing device, an image forming apparatus, a  
5 program, and a storing medium.

2. Description of the Related Art

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2001-197500 discloses a technique in which an image is encoded by the tile so that when a user desires to  
10 decode a part of an image by encoding, without decoding an entire region of the image, it is sufficient to decode only a tile that includes a region that is desired to be decoded.

Recently, newly developed scheme JPEG2000  
15 has been gradually adopted as an international standard image compressing/expanding algorithm.

In a case where an image compressed and encoded by conventional JPEG was desired to be expanded in terms of only an image size with the  
20 contents of the image being maintained, all encoded data of the image had to be decoded and edited.

For this reason, it was difficult to perform such a process at a high speed by using a small memory capacity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to make it possible to perform image size change or image region moving on compressed and encoded image data at a high speed by using a small memory capacity.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image processing device comprising:

setting means for setting image size change or image region moving for a code stream of an original image, wherein the original image is divided into a plurality of regions, and respective image data of the plurality of regions are compressed and encoded independently of each other to form the code stream; and

position information changing means for changing position information of the plurality of regions so that the image size change or the image region moving can be performed on the code stream with all or a part of contents of the original image being maintained.

According to another aspect of the present invention, the position information changing means changes the position information of the plurality of regions to exclude, from the reduced image, a region

that is among the plurality of regions and does not correspond to the part of the contents of the original image.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image forming apparatus comprising:

a scanner that reads an original image; and  
an image processing device,

wherein the image processing device  
10 comprises:

setting means for setting image size change or image region moving on a code stream of the original image, wherein the original image is divided into a plurality of regions, and respective image  
15 data of the plurality of regions are compressed and encoded independently of each other to form the code stream; and

position information changing means for changing position information of the plurality of  
20 regions so that the image size change or the image region moving can be performed on the code stream to form a new code stream with all or a part of contents of the original image being maintained,

and the image forming apparatus further  
25 comprises a printer engine that forms the original

image or a changed image on paper, based on the code stream or the new code stream.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image processing  
5 program comprising:

a program code of setting image size change or image region moving for a code stream of an original image, the code stream being constituted by a plurality of regions of the original image; and

10 a program code of changing position information of the plurality of regions with all of or a part of contents of the original image being maintained to perform the image size change or the image region moving.

15 According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a storing medium that stores an image processing program comprising:

a program code of setting image size change or image region moving for a code stream of an  
20 original image, the code stream being constituted by a plurality of regions of the original image; and

a program code of changing position information of the plurality of regions with all of or a part of contents of the original image being  
25 maintained to perform the image size change or the

image region moving.

Other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an electrical connection in an image processing device according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a functional block of the image processing device of the first embodiment;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are illustrations of image size expansion;

FIG. 4 shows a data configuration of a code stream before size expansion;

FIG. 5 shows a data configuration of a code stream after the size expansion;

FIGS. 6A and 6B are an illustration of image size expansion when there are tiles having incomplete sizes;

FIG. 7 is an illustration of a case where an image size is expanded by deleting tiles having incomplete sizes;

FIG. 8 is an illustration of a case where an image size is expanded by excluding image information of tiles having incomplete sizes;

FIG. 9 is a functional block of the image processing device that includes a significance determining unit;

FIG. 10 is a functional block of the image processing device that includes a ground color determining unit;

FIGS. 11A and 11B are illustrations of image size reduction;

FIGS. 12A and 12B are illustrations of changing a specific region of an image;

FIGS. 13A and 13B are illustrations of processing tiles having incomplete sizes when a specific region of an image is changed;

FIG. 14 is a block diagram showing an entire configuration of an image processing device according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 15 is a block diagram showing an electrical connection in an image data processing unit of the image processing device of FIG. 14; and

FIG. 16 is a flowchart of a process performed by the image processing device of FIG. 14

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE REFERED EMBODIMENTS

(First Embodiment)

5           A first embodiment of the present invention will be described.

          FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an electrical connection in an image processing device 1 according to the first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, the image processing device 1 may be a computer such as a personal computer that has a CPU 2 for performing various arithmetic operations and mainly controlling each unit of the image processing device 1, and a memory 3 constituted by various ROMs and RAMs. The CPU 2 and the memory 3 are connected by a bus 4.

          Further connected to the bus 4 via a predetermined interface are a magnetic storage device 5 such as a hard disk, an input device 6 constituted by a mouse and a keyboard, a displaying device 7 such as a LCD or a CRT, a reading device 9 that reads information from a storing medium 8 such as an optical disc, and a predetermined communication interface 11 for performing communication with a network 10 such as the Internet. As the storing



medium 8, various media, for example, an optical disc  
such as a CD or a DVD, a magnetic optical disc, a  
flexible disc may be used. As the reading device 9,  
an optical disc drive, a magnetic optical disc drive,  
5 or a flexible disc drive may be used in accordance  
with a type of the storing medium 8.

The magnetic storage device 5 stores an  
image processing program used for embodying the first  
embodiment of the present invention. This image  
10 processing program is read from the storing medium 8,  
or down-loaded from the network 10 such as the  
Internet so that the image processing program can be  
installed in the magnetic storage device 5. By  
installing the image processing program to the  
15 magnetic storage device 5, an operation of the image  
processing device 1 is enabled. This image  
processing program may function as a part of specific  
application software, or may function on a  
predetermined operating system.

20 FIG. 2 is a functional block of a process  
performed by the image forming apparatus 1. The  
image processing device 1 compresses and encodes  
image data by using a JPEG2000 algorithm. In  
accordance with the JPEG2000 algorithm, an image is  
25 divided into a plurality of small regions (tiles),

and encoding is performed independently on each tile in a hierarchical fashion so that a code stream can be output from an encoding unit 22.

Specifically, an image dividing unit 21  
5 divides image data into tiles, and outputs the divided image data to the encoding unit 22. The encoding unit 22 performs encoding process independently on each tile to compress and encode the image data so as to form the code stream. To perform  
10 this process, the encoding unit 22 may use a two-dimensional wavelet transformation and entropy-encoding (including arithmetic encoding). In this example, the encoding unit 22 uses the JPEG2000 algorithm. A size change setting unit 23 sets a  
15 change of an image size or a change of a region. In accordance with the setting made by the size change setting unit 23, a position information adding unit 24 adds position information or the like indicating a new position in the image to each tile of the code  
20 stream encoded by the encoding unit 22 so as to form a new code stream. An image of the newly formed code stream is an image whose size was changed from that of the original image, or an image in which an image region was moved from an original region position in  
25 the original image while all or a part of the

contents of the original image are maintained.

Each function of the dividing unit 21, the encoding unit 22, the size change setting unit 23, and the position information adding unit 24 is realized by a process that the CPU 2 executes based on the image processing program. Specifically, an image size described in a header part and/or an index that is position information indicating a position of a tile is changed so as to add the position information. The position information is information of an encoded data position compared to the input code stream.

Next, the process performed by the configuration shown in FIG. 2 will be described.

(1) Expanding of an image size

FIG. 3A shows an image 31 that is divided into 16 tiles T00 through T15 by the image dividing unit 21. As shown in FIG. 3B, a margin part is added to the image of FIG. 3A so as to form a code stream of an image 32 having a four times larger size than that of the image 31 with a size of a region of the original image 31 being maintained. In this manner, by only changing header information of the tiles T00 through T15, and an index of the tiles, it is possible to form the code stream of the image 32 that

is changed from the image 31 so as to have the double size of the image 31. In other words, in the case of image size expanding, additional image tiles (regions) may be added to an original image so that a  
5 displayed region, for example can be increased.

FIG. 4 shows one example of a data configuration of a code stream of the original image 31. FIG. 5 shows a data configuration of the code stream of the image 32 whose size is changed from the size of image 31. For simplicity, in FIG. 5, data of  
10 the tiles T04, and so on of the image 32 are not shown in the code stream of FIG. 5, but the tiles T04, and so on may exist in the code stream of FIG. 5. As understood from comparison between FIGS. 4 and 5, the data configuration of FIG. 5 is formed such that data  
15 of the tile 4 is changed to data of a tile T8, data of the tile T5 is changed to data of a tile T9, data of the tile T6 is changed to data of a tile T10, data of the tile T7 is changed to data of a tile T11, data  
20 of the tile 8 is changed to data of a tile T16, data of the tile T9 is changed to data of a tile T17, data of the tile T10 is changed to data of a tile T18, data of the tile T11 is changed to data of a tile T19, data of a tile T12 is changed to data of a tile T24,  
25 data of the tile T13 is changed to data of a tile T25,

data of the tile T14 is changed to data of a tile T26,  
and data of the tile T15 is changed to data of a tile  
T27. In this manner, the image 31 is changed to the  
image 32 having the four times larger size than that  
5 of the image 31. In the example shown in FIGS. 3A  
and 3B, the original region of the image 31 is  
positioned at the upper left side in the image 32.

Next, another example will be described.  
Also in this example, an original image 33 shown in  
10 FIG. 6A is changed to an image 34 shown in FIG. 6B  
that has a size four times larger than that of the  
image 33. As in the example of FIG. 3 where the size  
of the original image 31 is an integral multiple of a  
tile size, by only changing an index of tiles, it is  
15 possible to form a code stream of an image that has a  
four times larger size than that of an original image.  
However, in an example of FIG. 6A, an image before  
changing includes tiles (T04, T09, T14, and T19)  
having an incomplete size smaller than a complete  
20 tile size described in header information, only  
changing an index of tiles results in an expanded  
image different from a desired image. In such a case,  
the encoding unit 22 specifies which tiles have  
incomplete sizes based on the header information,  
25 performs decoding on the tiles having incomplete

sizes, edits the decoded image data , and create compressed and encoded data by using the JPEG2000 algorithm again. Thereby, from the tiles having incomplete sizes, it is possible to create tiles (T04, 5 T13, T22, and T31 in FIG. 6B) having complete sizes such that a part of each created tile includes image information of each original tile having the incomplete size. Furthermore, in a case where expanding of the image accompanies tiles having 10 incomplete sizes (T08, T17, T26, T35, T44, T53, T62, and T71) in the expanded image 34, these tiles are also created. However, these tiles having incomplete sizes need to have header information describing these incomplete tile sizes, and may have or do not 15 need to have image information.

Alternatively, the following process may be performed. The encoding unit 22 may delete encoded data of the tiles having incomplete sizes T04, T09, T14, and T19 at a boundary part to create a code 20 stream as shown in FIG. 7. In the changed code stream shown in FIG. 7, data of a tile T5 is changed to data of a tile T9, data of a tile T6 is changed to data of a tile T10, data of a tile T7 is changed to data of a tile T11, data of a tile T8 is changed to 25 data of a tile T12, data of a tile T10 is changed to

data of a tile T18, data of a tile T11 is changed to  
data of a tile T19, data of a tile T12 is changed to  
data of a tile T20, data of a tile T13 is changed to  
data of a tile T21, data of a tile T15 is changed to  
5 data of a tile T27, data of a tile T16 is changed to  
data of a tile T28, data of a tile T17 is changed to  
data of a tile T29, and data of a tile T18 is changed  
to data of a tile T30. Encoded data of the original  
tiles T4, T9, T14, and T19 is discarded so that the  
10 original image at a part corresponding to the tiles  
T04, T13, T22, and T31 cannot be displayed.

In addition, as shown in FIG. 9, a  
significance determining unit 25 may be added to the  
configuration of FIG. 2. The significance  
15 determining unit 25 determines whether or not a tile  
having an incomplete size includes significant image  
data. Specifically, the significance determining  
unit 25 determines whether or not the tile having an  
incomplete size only includes image data of a ground  
20 color of original document paper (original  
illustration paper or the like), and/or determines  
whether or not the tile having an incomplete size  
includes significant image data. When it is  
determined that the tile having an incomplete size  
25 includes significant image data, as in the example of

FIG. 6B, the encoding unit 22 encodes (or re-encodes) the tiles having incomplete sizes such that image information of these tiles is maintained to perform size expanding. On the other hand, when it is  
5 determined that the tile having an incomplete size does not include significant image data, the encoding unit 22 performs encoding with the tile having an incomplete size being deleted as in the example shown in FIGS. 7 and 8.

10           When performing size changing, various pixel values may be assigned to a region that does not include the substantive contents of the tile having an incomplete size on the assumption that this tile has a complete size. However, a white color of the  
15 lowest pixel value (in a case of 8-bit image, 0 out of 0 through 255) is generally assigned to this region to perform encoding. A pixel value of a ground color of an original document may be assigned to this region. A ground color extracting unit 26  
20 (refer to FIG. 10) (that is described later) detects a pixel value of a tile corresponding to a ground color part of the original document, and assigns this detected pixel value to the region of the tile corresponding to the ground color.

25           The significance determining unit 25 may



compare object code data amount of a tile with a predetermined threshold value, and determine that the tile does not include significant image data when the object code amount of the tile is smaller than the  
5 predetermined threshold value, and determines that the tile includes significant image data when the object code amount is larger than the predetermined threshold value.

Further, this determination by the  
10 significance determining unit 25 may be performed by using at least one of image information and code information in an input code stream.

Moreover, the determination by the  
significance determining unit 25 may be performed by  
15 using particular sub-band data of wavelet coefficients for the object tile.

In each of the above-described examples, in the code stream of the expanded image size, code data does not exist in the tile that does not include the  
20 original image data. Accordingly, the code amount of the expanded image is not so different from the code amount of the original image, so that the data amount can be made small.

However, code data may be provided for such  
25 a blank tile that does not include the original image

data in accordance with a necessity. In this case, various pixel values may be provided for the blank tile, but generally, a white color of the lowest pixel value (in a case of a 8-bit image data, 0 out  
5 of 0 through 255) may be provided for the blank tile to perform encoding. Alternatively, a pixel value of a ground color of the original document may be provided for the blank tile.

In order to obtain the pixel value of the  
10 ground color of the original document, as shown in FIG. 10, a ground color code extracting unit 26 is provided to the configuration of FIG. 2. Thereby, the code data of the tile having an incomplete size is decoded, and the number of pixels with respect to  
15 each pixel value of this tile is counted, and the most counted pixel value is determined to be the pixel value of the ground color of the original document. Thereafter, image data in which the pixel value of the ground color of the original document is  
20 provided to pixels for the tile having an incomplete size may be encoded again. Alternatively, the encoding unit 22 provides, to pixels for the tile having an incomplete size, a pixel value that is previously prepared as a pixel value of the ground  
25 color of the original document.

(2) Reduction of an image size

Next, reduction of an image size by the configuration of FIG. 2 will be described with reference to FIGS. 11A and 11B. In the case of the  
5 image size reduction, a part of contents of an original image can be excluded from the original image so that a displayed region, for example, of the original image can be decreased. When reducing an image size, as shown in FIGS. 11A and 11B, a reduced  
10 image 36 can be created from an original image 35 by rewriting position information of tiles such that original tiles T18 through T21 are changed to tiles T00 through T03, respectively, original tiles T26 through T29 are changed to tiles T04 through T07,  
15 respectively, original tiles T34 through T37 are changed to tiles T08 through T11, and original tiles T42 through T45 are changed to tiles T12 through T15.

In this case, the encoding unit 22 may delete from a new code stream original tiles other  
20 than the tiles T18 through T21, T26 through T29, T34 through T37, and T42 through T45 of the original image 35.

Alternatively, these original tiles other than the tiles T18 through T21, T26 through T29, T34  
25 through T37, and T42 through T45 of the original

image 35 may remain in a new code stream, and the position information adding unit 24 may add, to the new code stream of the new image 36, position information indication that these tiles are out of a  
5 range of the image 36. In this manner, by maintaining the information indicating that unnecessary tiles are out of the necessary range, it is also possible to create the original image 35 from the code stream of the new image 36.

10 (3) Changing of an image region

With the configuration of FIG. 2, by only changing header information, and an index for position information of tiles, it is possible to move a region having a certain size in an image to another  
15 region, and to create code data for the image in which the region has been moved.

FIGS. 12A and 12B show this case. An upper left region 38 of an original image 37 (refer to FIG. 12A) is moved to a lower right position of an image  
20 39 shown in FIG. 12B. Tiles other than tiles of the region 38 do not have to include code data, or may include code data for a predetermined pixel value as in the above-described (1).

Code data for the moved region is created  
25 such that data of an original tile T00 is changed to

data of a tile T10, data of an original tile T01 is changed to data of a tile T11, data of an original tile T04 is changed to data of a tile T14, and data of an original tile T05 is changed to data of a tile T15. In a case where after the region 38 is moved, code data is prepared for tiles T00, T01, T04, and T05, for example, code data corresponding to a ground color of an original document may be provided for these tiles T00, T01, T04, and T05. In this case, as in the above-described (1), the ground color code extracting unit 26 may extract a pixel value of the ground color of the original document, or a predetermined pixel value that is previously prepared may be set as the pixel value of the ground color.

Further alternatively, the data of the tiles T10, T11, T14, and T15 of the original image 37 may be set for the tiles T00, T01, T04, and T05 of the changed image 39. Further alternatively, the image region 38 of the original image may be moved with all of data of the tiles T00 through T15 of the original image 37 being maintained such that the data of the tiles T00, T01, T04, and T05 of the original image are used as data of the tiles T00, T01, T04, and T05 of the changed image 39.

As in the example of FIGS. 12A and 12B, in a

case where when moving the region 38 having a certain size to another region, the region 38 at the original position in the image 37 has a size that is an integral multiple of a tile size, by only changing an index of tiles, it is possible to create a code stream for the moved region 38. However, as in an example of FIG. 13A, a part of a region 38 to be moved has an incomplete size smaller than a complete size of a tile, simply changing an index of tiles results in an image different from a desired image.

For this reason, as in the above-described (1), the encoding unit 22 decodes such tiles having incomplete tile sizes, edits image data of these tiles, and encodes the edited image data again so as to create encoded data for a moved region of FIG. 13B.

Alternatively, the encoding unit 22 may delete such tiles having incomplete sizes. In this case, it may be considered that an original tile in the original image data that has an incomplete size does not exist at an original position in the original image. In another example for a tile having an incomplete size, code data for the original tile having an incomplete size may be used in an image after the region is moved, or code data corresponding to a ground color of an original document may be used

in the image after the region is moved.

Furthermore, as in the above-described (1), the significance determining unit 25 may determine whether or not a tile having an incomplete size  
5 includes significant image data. When the tile includes significant image data, the encoding unit 25 may decode the tile having an incomplete size, edits image data of the decoded tile, and compresses the edited image data to create code data of this tile.  
10 Meanwhile, when this tile having an incomplete size does not include significant image data, the encoding unit 25 may delete this tile as in the above-described (1).

The above-described image processing device  
15 according to the first embodiment of the present invention can be used in various fields. For example, in a publishing industry, a layout of an image can be modified by expanding the image, moving a region in the image, and the like. In a specific example,  
20 based on image data obtained by reading an image of an original document (or illustration and the like) by using a scanner, size reduction is performed by deleting an edge part of the original image so that an image part for punch holes existing at the edge  
25 part of the original image can be deleted from the

code data. In addition, an image processed by the image processing device 1 is not limited to a still image, but may be a moving image. When the image processing device 1 processes a moving image, a  
5 Motion-JPEG2000 algorithm is applied to the moving image. By performing reduction process on a moving image such that a remaining image is limited to a center part of the moving image, even a computer that has a low processing ability can reproduce the moving  
10 image without exposing the computer to an excess load.

Additionally, in each case of the above-described image size expanding (1), the image size reducing (2), and the image region moving (3), if there is a tile (called a blank tile) that does not  
15 include the contents of the original image, the image processing device may include a code data generating unit (not shown) that generates code data for the blank tile, and adds the generated code data to the code stream of the original image so that the image  
20 size expanding, the image size reducing, or the image region moving can be performed by using the code data for the blank tile.

(Second Embodiment)

Next, a second embodiment of the present  
25 invention will be described.



FIG. 14 is a block diagram showing an outline configuration of a digital copier 41 according to the second embodiment of the present invention. The digital copier 41 is an embodied  
5 example of an image forming apparatus according to the present invention. The digital copier 41 includes an image data reading unit 42 that functions as a scanner, an image data controlling unit 43, an image data processing unit 44 that is an embodied  
10 example of the image processing device according to the present invention, an image data storing unit 45, an image data writing unit 46 that has a printer engine, an operation panel 47, and a communication interface 48.

15           The image data reading unit 46 performs a process of reading light reflected by an original document by using an optical system, performs a process of converting a light signal into an electric signal by using a CCD (Charge Coupled Device), and  
20 performs a process of converting an analog signal into a digital signal by using an A/D converter.

          The image data controlling unit 43 mainly controls each of these units. The image data controlling unit 43 has an interface with each of  
25 these units (e.g., one-to-one correspondence

individual interface, or an interface via a common bus), and transfers image data between these units.

The image processing unit 44 performs various processes on image data input to or output  
5 from the image processing unit 44 in accordance with control of the image data controlling unit 43.

The image data storing unit 45 stores or reads image data input to or output from the image data storing unit 45 in accordance with control of  
10 the image data controlling unit 43.

The image data writing unit 46 forms an image based on image data input to the image data writing unit 46 in accordance with control of the image data controlling unit 43. The image data  
15 writing unit 46 may use as a printing method an electrophotographic method, an inkjet method, a sublimation thermal transfer method, a silver-photographic method, a direct thermal recording method, and a melting thermal transfer method.

20 The operation panel 47 includes various keys for receiving various operations from a user, and a liquid crystal display that displays various images and messages.

The communication interface 48 performs  
25 transmission or reception of image data with an

exterior personal computer by connecting the digital copier 41 with the exterior personal computer.

The image processing unit 44 performs various processes on image data received from the image reading unit 42 or the communication interface 48. Particularly, by using the JPEG2000 algorithm, the image processing unit 44 compresses and encodes image data, changes an image size, and/or moves a region.

FIG. 15 is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration in the image data processing unit 44. The hardware configuration is provided for compressing and encoding image data, changing an image size, and/or moving a region. As shown in FIG. 15, a CPU 51, a ROM 52, and a RAM 53 are connected to each other by a bus 54. The ROM 52 is provided for storing the image processing program, and the CPU 51 uses the RAM 53 as a working area based on the image processing program to realize the functional blocks shown in FIGS. 9 and 10 so as to perform various processes such as the image size expanding and reducing, and moving of a region as described in the first embodiment of the present invention.

The image data processing unit 44 may performs these processes directly on image data

received from the image data reading unit 42 or the communication unit 48. Alternatively, the image data processing unit 42 may compress and encode image data received from the image data reading unit 42 or the communication interface 48 by using the JPEG2000 algorithm to form a code stream, then store the formed code stream in the image data storing unit 5, and read the stored code stream to perform various processes on the code stream in accordance with a necessity.

FIG. 16 is a flowchart showing a process performed by a CPU of the image data controlling unit 43. First, when a user operates the operation panel 47 to provide an instruction of taking in image data (Yes at Step S1), the image data reading unit 42 or the communication interface 48 takes in image data at Step S2, and an image of the taken-in image data is displayed on the liquid crystal display of the operation panel 47 at Step S3.

The user can view the displayed image, and select expanding or reducing of a size of the image at Step S4. When the user selects the expanding of the image size (Yes at Step S5), the user selects, from an upper right position, an upper left position, a lower right position, a lower left position, a

center position, and the like, a position at which the original image should be located in the expanded image (Yes at Step S6), and selects an expanding rate such as a 1.5-fold or 2-fold expansion rate at Step 5 S7. When the user selects the reducing of the image size (No at Step S5), the user selects, from an upper right position, an upper left position, a lower right position, a lower left position, a center position, and the like, a position (or a range) to which the 10 image should be reduced from the original image (Yes at Step S8), and selects a reducing rate such as a 0.75-fold or 0.5-fold reduction rate (Yes at Step S9).

Subsequently, the user selects a paper size (e.g., a B5 or A4 size) (Yes at Step S10), and presses 15 down a predetermined execution button of the operation panel 7 (Yes at Step S11) so that the image data taken in at Step S2 can be compressed and encoded by the JPEG2000 algorithm to form a code stream. A process of the selected expanding or 20 reducing is performed on this code stream at Step S12. The expanding or reducing process for the code stream is performed in the manner described in detail in the first embodiment of the present invention. When the image expanding process was performed (Yes at Step 25 S13), a process of moving a region of the image can

be performed on a code stream newly created by the expanding process. Specifically, the image created by the expanding process is displayed on the liquid crystal display of the operation panel 47 at Step S14, and the user can view the displayed image. Thereafter, when the user uses the operation panel 47 to further select the process of moving a region in the expanded image (Yes at Step S15), the user selects a moving object region to be moved from an upper right region, an upper left region, a lower right region, and a lower left region, a center region, and the like of the expanded image, and selects a region to which the selected moving object region is moved, from the upper right region, the upper left region, the lower right region, the lower left region, the center region, and the like of the expanded image at Step S16. The region moving process is thereby performed at Step S17. In accordance with selections by the user at Steps S6 through S9, and S16, the size change setting unit 23 performs setting for the image size change and/or the image region moving.

The code stream created by the expanding or reducing process, and the image region moving process is stored in the image data storing unit 45 at Step S18. Meanwhile, when the user does not select the

expanding or reducing of the image size (No at Step S4), the image data is compressed and encoded by the JPEG2000 algorithm without performing the expanding or reducing process to form a code stream, and the  
5 formed code stream is stored in the image data storing unit 45. The code stream formed in each case is sent to the image data writing unit 46 where the image of the code stream is formed on paper of the selected size at Step S19.

10               This patent application is based on Japanese priority patent application No. 2002-271186 filed on September 18, 2002, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.